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A WEEKLY FORUM FOR NEW ENGLAND

Gay Community News

25¢

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NOVEMBER 17, 1973

GAY DIES IN BRIDGEWATER

On November 7, Edward A. Rastellini was found dead at MCI Bridgewater. He was imprisoned since 1968 on sodomy charges. Eddie was apparently killed by a fellow inmate(s). The coroner's report revealed that Eddie died of more than 20 stab wounds. He was in a protective custody block (at his own request) and was killed in a recreation area.

Investigation is underway by the Plymouth County D.A.'s office under the direction of Lieut. Detec. Robert Zullas (State Police Detective). A question of negligence on the part of prison officials has arisen and Eddie's family is planning to press charges against the State.

Eddie was convicted in 1970 of Mass. Gen. Law Chapter 272, Sec. 35a.....UNNATURAL AND LASCIVIOUS ACT WITH A CHILD OF 16 OR UNDER; and Chapter 272, Sec. 34.....ABOMINABLE AND DETESTABLE CRIMES AGAINST NATURE. He was sentenced to 5 years on the first count and 5 to 15 years on the second count. This was his second "crime against nature"

offense and therefore was not eligible for parole until 5 years had been served. He had already served 2 years of his sentence while awaiting trial at the Suffolk County Jail.

The point stressed by everyone that this reporter interviewed was that the "child" Eddie "was caught in the act with" in June of 1968 was a 16 year old hustler with whom Eddie was friends and that no money had been exchanged. It is generally believed by outside parties who were involved with Eddie that prison guards and administrators were responsible for creating the impression and spreading the rumor among the inmates that Eddie was in for child raping. This combined with homosexuality usually creates hostile feelings among inmates.

After his conviction in 1970, Eddie was sent to Walpole Prison where fellow inmates twice set his cell on fire.

In October 1970 he was sent to Bridgewater State Prison for psychiatric examination and remained there for 2 years.

Pleas for help went out to the

Homophile Union of Boston (HUB), who had no facilities for legal aid at the time, and to the Mass. Civil Liberties Union, who refused to take the case.

It was not until Walpole again threw out the welcome mat in preparation for Eddie's parole hearing that FAG RAG put him in touch with Attorney Richard Rubino (Spring '73).

Eddie arrived at the parole hearing and was confronted with the former probation officer of Eddie's ex-lover. Eddie had had numerous clashes with him. The officer disqualified himself but Eddie appeared quite upset and apparently left a bad impression. The psychiatric report received by the parole board was not over-enthusiastic about release. Before a decision was reached, riots at Walpole caused the sudden removal of Eddie and 14 others in his cell block to MCI Bridgewater. Parole was denied. Time was served completely on the "acts with a minor charge". Eddie was in for the "unnatural act" of sleeping with another man. In an

interview, his sister stated in amazement "I can't understand why Eddie was never granted parole. He had a job and a place to live, yet he was never granted parole."

GCN's Dennis Thomas, who corresponded with Eddie since 1970 found him to be "a sensitive, bright, well-meaning person." Charlie Shive

(Continued on page 2)

Frank Reaction

State Rep. Barney Frank of Boston has called for a "thorough and complete" investigation into the murder of a Bridgewater MCI gay inmate, and has called on the Massachusetts Corrections Department to explain its policy for protecting gay inmates from straight inmates.

In a letter to Corrections Commissioner Frank Hall, Rep. Frank also said he would renew his legislative efforts to abolish the "barbarous practice of imprisoning people for engaging in voluntary sexual activity."

The Back Bay-Beacon Hill representative added, "The murder of Edward A. Rastellini has understandably caused a good deal of anger and fear in the Gay community. It is for this reason that I urge you to make special efforts to provide a full airing of the facts of this case --- not just those immediately incident to the murder, but those leading up to it, including the reasons, if any, for Mr. Rastellini's failure to win parole, and for his transfer from Walpole to Bridgewater."

He continued, "I would very much like to know the department's policy in dealing with men imprisoned for sodomy or related offenses. Specifically, I am interested in learning how the department reconciles the need to protect them from brutality within the prison with the need to allow them to participate in meaningful activities."

The tragedy of Mr. Rastellini's death was heightened, Rep. Frank said, because Mr. Rastellini was imprisoned "for a purely voluntary act in which he and another person were engaged."

He said he would continue his fight to abolish the state's "unnatural acts" law as it applies to private acts between consenting adults. But until the law books are changed, he said, "special steps obviously have to be taken to protect people jailed for homosexuality from violence within prison."

N.H. GOV. ATTACKS U.N.H. GAYS

DURHAM, N.H. New Hampshire Governor Meldrim Thomson said last weekend that he plans to renew efforts to get the University of New Hampshire Board of Trustees to kick the gay student group there off campus. Thomson said the University "should not be run for the benefit of persons who suffer from the social disabilities of the gays." The statement was made after Thomson learned that the gay students had sponsored a dance on campus that weekend.

Thomson was also quoted as saying "we don't have to put up with this spectacle", and he expressed anger that this sort of "spectacle could be held at a tax supported institution". He was upset that the Board of Trustees had not prevented the gay dance or notified him of it. The Governor said that his reports implied that the Board failed to act because they feared that, "if they acted to stop it, gays from all over New England would come and protest." Thomson exclaimed that this reasoning "was not valid" and he would "call out the police if necessary" to

control any such protest.

Contacted by GCN, Wayne April, head of the gay student group, explained that the trustees, although the majority are sympathetic to the plight of the groups, had somewhat bowed to the intense pressure of the governor and the predominately conservative legislature which controls University financial appropriations. This response of the Executive Board of the Trustees was to suspend all social activities of the group pending further investigation. A full meeting of the Board is planned for this Saturday.

April stated that there were no more "social activities" planned for the immediate, anyway. He also expressed praise for the college administration which has been very sympathetic to the group and gave them official recognition last spring, an act Thomson has vowed to revoke by whatever way he can. April felt that both the administration of the university and the Board of Trustees would back the gay group if they were forced to make this politically and financially brave stand.

UNH gays are also encouraged by the response of the entire student body, which found the governor's attitude offensive and seems to be in the process of solidly backing the gay group. The UNH student government has sent a letter of support, and is demanding that the Governor, a member of the Board of Trustees, attend the Saturday Board Meeting. "He has spent so much time attacking the group that we feel that he should appear in person to be questioned."

The confrontation between the gay students and the Governor may come to a head soon, due to the scheduled performance December 7th of the gay-oriented play "Coming Out!", at the Durham campus. In response to direct questioning, the Executive Board of the Trustees ruled that the play would not be a "social activity" and could be held as scheduled. Contacted in Boston, Ms. Loretta Lottman, producer of "Coming Out!" stated "we'll play on the lawn if we have to" to a question about the possibility of the trustees cancelling the performance. In addition,

(Continued on page 2)

DIES (Continued from Page 1)

ly, who also corresponded with Eddie was impressed by the "positive change in Eddie's attitude during his contact with Gay Liberation."

In July '73, Marilyn Haft, head of the Sexual Privacy Project of the ACLU was contacted for help with parole procedures. The people from FAG RAG had contacted her. No answer was received.

Rep. Barney Frank has sent a letter to Prison Commissioner Frank Hall asking for "a thorough and complete investigation into the murder of Eddie Rastellini. It is my job, not yours, to wipe this vicious law off our statute books, but as long as we continue the barbarous practice of imprisoning people for engaging in voluntary sexual activity, your burden as Commissioner of Correction will be greater than it ought to be, and special steps obviously have to be taken to protect people jailed for homosexuality from violence within prison.

"I urge you to make special efforts to provide a full airing of the facts of this case --- not just those immediately incident to the murder, but those leading up to it, including the reasons, if any, for Mr. Rastellini's failure to win parole, and for his transfer from Walpole to Bridgewater.

"Beyond this, I would very much like to know the Department's policy in dealing with men imprisoned for sodomy or related offenses."

Brown to Speak

Dr. Howard J. Brown, a former New York health administrator who made national headlines when he "came out" publicly, will be keynote speaker at a gay health services conference to be held in Boston next April.

The conference, sponsored by the Homophile Community Health Service, is being designed to emphasize to gay and straight health professionals the need for better health services for gays.

Other speakers at the conference will be Elaine Noble of the WBUR-FM radio program "Gay Way", and E. Carolyn Innes, founder and chairperson of the recently organized Gay Nurses' Alliance based in Philadelphia.

Dr. Brown will discuss "Gay People and the Health Professions". He is a former public health administrator for New York City, and currently is professor of public administration at New York University. He recently was instrumental in founding the National Gay Task Force.

Persons wishing to be placed on a mailing list for the conference should contact Conference Chairperson John C. Lawrence at the HCHS.

In announcing the conference, Lawrence said the conference will be a step toward action to correct the "less than courteous, undignified and often oppressive treatment" gays often receive from professional health workers. Situations in other professions also will be discussed, he said.

Gays Looking Up Down Under

SYDNEY, Australia --- Gays and sympathetic straights in Australia are taking major steps toward relaxing legal and social taboos that have long made Aussie gays among the most oppressed anywhere.

According to the NEW YORK TIMES, a motion to remove the stigma of criminality from gay sex acts by consenting adults in private already has been adopted by the Australian parliament. Formal legislation to remove the present harsh penalties for gay sex acts is expected soon.

Approval of the legislative motion came after the Minister for Environment and Conservation told members of Parliament that anti-gay sentiment is so strong that beating up gays has become "virtually a recognized civilian team sport."

Meanwhile, many straights were shocked recently to hear that gay activists have been conducting lectures on homosexuality at several high schools in Melbourne and Sydney, the nation's two largest cities. The gays said the lectures

came at the request of teachers.

Claiming they were unaware of the lectures, state education officials have ordered an investigation.

One gay person, Martin Smith, 41, is openly running in state elections in New South Wales on a gay rights platform. He recently told reporters that a team of 15 gay lecturers had spoken at 30 state and private schools in Sydney "without opposition." Reaction from students and teachers is mixed.

In addition, the Congregational Church, in its assembly here recently, supported a more tolerant attitude toward gays, as has a synod of the Anglican Church. A congregational pastor in Perth said he has performed marriage ceremonies for both gay male couples and lesbian couples.

Persons convicted of gay sex acts still can be jailed for up to 21 years in some Australian states. However, long-held masculine attitudes have given way somewhat since the days when a person could be sentenced to life imprisonment for the "abominable crime" of sodomy.

about 20 people who turned out for the meeting that Councilman O'Neil contacted him about two hours before the meeting to say he could not make the appearance.

But Dow said O'Neil "has given his word that the appearance will be rescheduled in the very near future."

Boston City Councilman Albert L. "Dapper" O'Neil postponed a scheduled speaking appearance at Sunday's Homophile Union of Boston (HUB) meeting, citing a sudden illness.

HUB President Robert Dow told

U.N.H. (Continued from Page 1)

she stated that invitations would be sent to Gov. Thomson and William Loeb, publisher of the arch-conservative and passionately anti-gay *Manchester Union Leader*.

Loeb became infamous to the gay community in an editorial last spring in "his" paper, entitled "Pansys on Campus", which was so inflammatory that even the *Boston Globe* was incensed to editorially attack it. Loeb has not editorialized on this latest incident, but has carried his usual biased front page "news" on the event.

Meanwhile in Boston, Gay Media Action is busy organizing a united effort to support the UNH gays. A letter of protest and solidarity is being written and signed by Boston Area groups, the text of which is not yet available. Plans for a media press conference are also under way. An indication of the "straight" media's interest is the fact that April has been contacted by numerous national media for statements and the story had been picked up by the wire services.

Wayne April expressed gratitude for the Boston area gay support, but cautioned gays not to come to the Durham campus in efforts of support, especially the Saturday Board of Trustees Meeting. NH gays are well organized for this meeting, and fear that out-of-staters would not particularly help at this time and may be resented by all parties. Instead, he encouraged the Boston publicity campaign by Gay Media Action, and asks for interested gays to write to UNH President Dr. Thomas Bonner, University of N.H., Durham, N.H. 03824. Letters should thank him for his past support and urge its continuation.

GCN will bring you further information as it develops.

WBZ to focus on WOMEN

On Friday, Jan. 18, 1974, eighteen hours of programming on WBZ-TV will be devoted to women in contemporary society. Jointly sponsored by the Massachusetts Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, the program will originate from the Hynes Civic Auditorium in Boston.

On Thursday, Jan. 10, there will be a public hearing on issues, problems and concerns of Massachusetts women in Gardner Auditorium at the State House, Boston. WBZ-TV will film the entire event, and edit from it a ninety-minute segment for the Jan. 18 program. Areas of testimony will include employment, health, credit, education, family, and civil rights, including sexual preference.

The Governor's Commission wishes to see all segments of opinion represented at the hearing. Anyone wishing to speak for herself or as representative of a group should contact Sunny Macmillan, Hearings Chairperson, 27 Water Street, Hingham, Mass. 02043, with the subject on which testimony would be offered.

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ROBERT DOW, HUB PRESIDENT

"If you are going to ask people to come out of the closet, then you had better show an example", said Bob Dow, President of the Homophile Union of Boston. Over two years ago, when he was the vice-president of HUB, Bob appeared on a television program with his back turned to the cameras. Later, he examined his conscience and vowed never to place himself in a similar situation again. Since then Bob Dow's face and name have become synonymous with HUB.

Born 33 years ago in Lynn, Mass., Bob is the oldest of five boys. Bob's one regret with becoming so involved with gay liberation is that he does not have much time to spend with his family. Yet he says that he feels that taking a few hours away from the job is like taking a few weeks. Don Meuse, Bob's lover, considers Bob a hyper-active person who does well with little rest.

Bob and Don have been together for over a year, and together they told the story of what Don considers "the most fascinating and important episode in Bob's life". Bob had been dismissed from the Essex County School of Agriculture, where he was majoring in poultry. Someone had "turned him in" because of a homosexual interlude. He then decided on a hitch in the Navy and rose in the ranks to the position of 3rd class boilerman. Bob had been gay all his life and had been out since puberty. He frequented gay bars where the ship docked, and started carrying on aboard the ship on occasion. Bob admits to being "very active sexually" and after spending three years and ten months in the Navy, it was found out that Bob was gay. He was immediately taken off the ship for interrogation by the Operations of Naval Intelligence and under armed guard was made to empty his locker and pack his seabag. He was then locked in segregation confinement in the base brig. After three days he was let out and put into a holding company in which he was in a position of "semi-restriction". Bob was irate because he was put to work on the worst jobs and he decided to demand of the Chiefmaster a job which his previous ranking deserved. He re-

ceived a job with a little authority, but one of the sailors under him rebelled against "working for a faggot." The sailor was "a pretty boy" and Bob quietly implied that he would not be very pretty if he tangled with Bob. Bob also was forced to "punch out" three or four persons who started fights with him. There were some close friends who stood by him, including one man who offered Bob \$1000. to make a new start. The day before Bob was officially discharged, many rumours were rampant concerning the exact reason for the discharge. There were many conflicting stories because if Bob was asked if it was because of drugs, he would answer "Yes" and if someone asked him if he were in trouble for some various other reason, he would answer "Yes" to that also. So just before he was to leave the ship for the final time, Bob jumped up on a table in his crowded barracks and shouted, "It's because I'm queer!" There was an immediate and deafening hush. "What's the matter?" Bob yelled. "Didn't you ever see a faggot before?"

It was sometime later that Bob began to get involved in the liberation movement. Because of the discharge he was denied a renewal of his driver's license by the State of Massachusetts. He was without a license for almost 7 years and when he could not get help through legal channels, Bob went to the Registry of Motor Vehicles and slamming his fist down on a desk, demanded his rights as a United States citizen. His license was renewed. "I am known to be violent, but I am more enraged that I should be driven to violence", Bob will tell you.

Bob Dow credits Alan Henderson of the Mattachine Society with his emergence into the Liberation Movement. He feels that he has been inspired by Troy Perry and although he is a member of Dignity and Interfaith, he attends MCC services on occasion. Bob is thankful to Elaine Noble for her encouragement and says that she was instrumental in his acceptance of women. Just one and a half years ago, Bob was asked at a speaking engagement how he felt about women. "I hate them" was the blunt reply. Bob says that his hatred was really based on "ignorance of women, combined with stubbornness." Don Meuse reiterated Bob's isolation from women throughout his life and that in high school Bob saw himself as "competition for the girls." Bob admits that he was "very bigoted, very chauvinistic", but that liberation has changed him. "In order to accomplish some of your goals, you have to learn to bend a little." "My hatred of women was really a very false or superficial hate." Bob is very proud of the fact that 10% of the membership of HUB is composed of women, the largest number since HUB was founded.

Speaking about his recent reelection to the HUB presidency, Bob said, "There is no question about it, the HUB elections pulled the membership and the higher structure closer together than it has ever been before. This is the first time in HUB's history that the people have banded together to achieve the same goals." He sees

The Tag in



the fifth row

by Jonathan Cross
A commentary on area entertainment of gay interest.

Dry Ice

The Boston Ballet opened its tenth anniversary season last weekend with a bright, diverting, energetic, but oddly heartless and finally disappointing program featuring Bejart's Polish luminary Woytek Lowski as *premier danseur*.

Motionless and alone, bathed in the palest of spotlights, Lowski is breathlessly, dramatically introduced, done up in white tights, gloves, and a sort of skull-cap, wildly made up in Expressionist black and white. He dances (brilliantly) a Bejart solo piece called "Le Cygne" to exquisite Ravi Shankar sitar ragas. Lithe, balanced, at once abstract and sensual, Lowski's stylized preening and flutterings partake as much of the mime tradition as of the classical repertoire of position and attitude. He wondrously suggests, in five minutes, the bird's darting, sinuous energy and nervous grace.

Equally impressive was the home corps' opening number --- Norman Walker's "Baroque Concerto", eight dancers engaged in a tenuous dialogue with the complexities of Baroque trumpets and strings. Beautifully costumed, on a bare stage, the troupe forms and breaks a series of freely flowing structures against the complementary Baroque elaborations. Spare, clean, uncluttered by story or

program or overt imagery, the "Concerto", as realized here, is elegant of line and pure of feeling.

Regretably, I thought, the bulk of the evening consists of a rather limp under-production of Agnes DeMille's "Rodeo", a smug, littlest-cowgirl story, in which the spunky brone-busting tomboy is shamed and socialized into accepted

socialized into accepted "feminine" role-playing in a sanitized, mythical version of the American West. The company's mugging, the easy jokes, the limited, parodistic movements are straight out of Norman Rockwell (by way of Disneyland and Lawrence Welk). The nasty, ritualized American pattern of exclusion and closed sexual options is paraded here as a kind of ideal. I found it sexist, empty, and offensive.

For other reasons, less political, I felt let down by the "Donizetti Variations", choreographed by George Balanchine as a satire of the cliches of opera ballet. Again the laughs seem too easy; too much is sacrificed to pleasing the crowd. Now and again Balanchine is even vulgar; someone backs into an extended finger. Yes, it breaks up the place, but at what cost? At that point I was inescapably reminded of the mock-balletic *kitsch* of the Ice Capades. We deserve a full aesthetic experience from the Boston Ballet, not the slick campy superficialities and slapstick of "Variations", however cleverly performed.



his two main goals as President as "uniting the gay community so that it will elick as a solid unit and seeing that members renew their memberships when they expire." Bob is especially proud that "through the unification of gay men and women in the fight for gay legislation, HUB has done so much in 1973 to make gay people newsworthy."

Bob drives a motorcycle with a lambda painted on the windshield. He has done extensive traveling and feels that Boston is the best city for gays in the country. He feels that there is less separatism here than in any other metropolitan gay community. "In Boston, if there is trouble with one gay organization, there is trouble with them all."

Bob will readily admit to being on an ego trip of sorts. "It is important to be able to fantasize your goals and having a strong ego is a healthy thing.

I am very proud of the fact that people like Barney Frank and Joan Tuttle will refer people to me to learn about the fight for civil rights for gays in Boston. I am always available to help the people in the gay community." But Bob does not consider himself one of the forerunners of gay rights seekers. He lists Charley Shively, Laura McMurphy, Randy Gibson, Dave Peterson and Allan Young as some of the people who have been an integral part of the movement here.

Bob Dow considers his most important task in "HUB's staying together as a viable organization that will serve the people in the gay community....by fulfilling their needs, advancing their civil rights, and heightening their personal pride in the gay community." Bob Dow is a remarkably complex man with remarkably complex goals.

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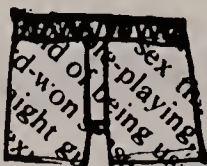
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NEWS SHORTS

In Chicago, a ruling handed down by Judge Jack Sperling declared that a 30 year old city ordinance which forbade men and women from dressing in clothing of the opposite sex is unconstitutional. Last August 20th, 4 men were arrested in a bar for underage drinking and dressing in women's attire. Judge Sperling said: "People have the right to present themselves physically to the world in the manner of their own individual choice." The drinking charge was continued.

Discrimination against gays in employment is punishable by fines up to \$500 in Seattle as a result of a new city ordinance signed into law recently. The new ordinance prohibits discrimination in both private employment and city offices.

New York City's oldest gay church, "The Church of the Beloved Disciple", now has a new, permanent home at 348 West 14th St. in the West Village. The dedication of the church took place on Oct. 7th and was celebrated with a street procession, a Gothic Mass and a Holy Communion Ceremony joining two gay men.

In Hawaii, the Waikiki Jungle Community School was destroyed by fire. The school is a social center which houses several gay organizations. Arson is suspected...this is the fifth fire at the school in two years.

85 of the 171 "Homosexually Oriented" men charged in Denver this year with "committing, or agreeing to commit, a lewd act or act of prostitution" were arrested after "conversation only". And all but two of those charged had policemen not citizens, as complaining witnesses. Draw your own conclusions.

Edward Rastellini has been murdered. A sodomist, like many of us, killed in prison. Why? Fear - hatred - or insecurity? It's easy to write the whole incident off to prejudice and ignorance. (Ho, hum, aren't we oppressed.)

We are also the murderers. The united gay community has too long ignored the atrocities our gay sisters and brothers face in prisons. Only a few have worked in the past to repeal the discriminatory laws and regulations that control the psychology of our lives.

We do not need just the hysterical "O, my God" response of a sympathetic community. People need to act AS A COMMUNITY to bring about awareness of the situation. It is up to us to lead the way for changes. We cannot forget Eddie's fate. But, more important, we can't let the fate of [other gays in prisons follow the same course.

PLEASE WRITE TO COMMISSIONER FRANK HALL, CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT, 100 CAMBRIDGE ST., BOSTON.

Also, we encourage everyone interested to contact those groups that have been working with prisoners and legislative reform. To our knowledge, here is a list of groups currently working in this area: HUB (617) 536-6197, FAG RAG 536-9826, Gay Prisoners Alliance 221-8519, MCC 266-7491, and DOB 262-1592.

OTHER NEW ENGLAND GAY PUBLICATIONS

BOSTON GAYLINE. Bimonthly. Interviews, articles, reviews, ads, listings & poetry. Published by the Homophile Union of Boston, Room 509, 419 Boylston St., Boston, Ma. 02116. (617) 536-6197.

THE CONNECTION. Monthly. Published by Kalos Society of Hartford, P.O. Box 403, Hartford, Conn. 06101. 50 cents per copy. Contact them for subscription information.

FAG RAG. Quarterly. Goy Mole Liberation newspaper. 50 cents per copy. Fog Rag, P.O. Box 331, Kenmore Square Station, Boston, Ma. 02215. (617) 536-9826.

FOCUS: A Journal for Goy Women. Published by Boston Daughters of Bilitis. 50 cents per copy, subscriptions \$5.00 per year. Events, information, poetry, letters, ads, calendar. Boston Dob, Room 323, 419 Boylston St., Boston, Ma. 02116.

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forum

THE POLITICS OF FAGGOTS: Responses

(Originally presented in GCN #19, Oct. 27, 1973)

FAG

FAGGY

FAGGOT

FAGGOTTY

FAGGOTLIKE

About Faggots:

by Satya

One cannot make a rule as to what we should call ourselves. Many factors are involved including how liberated one is, the consciousness of those you are with, the general situation, and also how much energy you have that day to deal with things. Sometimes I'll call myself a queer or faggot in a conversation to make a particular point. Other times I am walking past a group of people and I hear a straight person use the word faggot, and I find myself saying "I don't like to be called a faggot." Ignorance is widespread, and we must deal with it on the level which will do the most good in that particular instance.

A Faggot by Any Other Name Is Still a Faggot

by Ian Johnson

When a white calls a black a nigger, it's the same as a straight calling a gay a faggot. Blacks demand whites call them blacks, not niggers; gays demand gays, not fags. *But*, blacks can call *themselves* niggers to denote the oppression inherent in their condition. The same with the use of faggot. Both without demeaning themselves; both with a sense of pride. "We're your niggers faggots."

However, the problem arises when blacks refer to *other* blacks as niggers, and gays to *other* gays as faggots, both implying that they are something different from themselves (less). Hence, a black saying "He's just a nigger," a gay saying "But he's such a faggot."

This seems to be much of the problem within the community — not knowing if it's well intended or an ego-trip dump. Let's not oppress ourselves by putting down other gays merely to build up ourselves, playing "it's OK that I'm gay, as long as I'm not like *them* (faggots)." This only feeds on the insecurities given us by straight oppression.

So, if *We* don't use this straight given oppressive label just as oppressively, then it is free to be used by the gay community for what it really could be: a symbol of our oppression, a sense of pride, a chance for *us* to really express ourselves. "Sure, I'm a faggot, and so what?" Remember brothers, a faggot by any other name is still a faggot. The word is only important in the fears that it instills in *you*. I don't want straights to call me a faggot because it implies hate and insensitivity. If they call me gay, it implies that they are at least trying to accept it. But if I get "faggot" hurled at me, it's really their problem and not mine. Their reaction to a calm "So what?" will illustrate.

Ivory towers.
Bloody flowers.
Stampeding herds of roaches.
Flutter through your heart,
and burn inside your soul
Screaming conscience.
Ringing loud.
Let it burn.

Let it burn;
You cannot stop it now.
The tarot cards.
Say it's too late,
You've sold yourself too cheap.
The blood that drips
Down from your mouth,
And falls onto
Your pale white breasts,
And stains them crimson.
Deep and dark;
It will never wash away.
You've declared yourself.
Now wear it openly;
For the whole damn world to see.
Accept the screams of
FAGGOT
As a title.
Not a label pinned on us.
Yes we are the ones who now say what we
are,
Not those who try to cast our molds;
They don't want to face it,
But world, GAY is now united.

by Steve Howe



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DID YOU SEE ?

by Wendy Bauman & Ginny Collins



The *New York Times* Nov. 7. "Homosexual Legal Aid Group Set Up".

"The formation of a fund to provide free legal counsel for homosexuals was announced by William J. Thom, a lawyer in New York City. Mr. Thom said the groups, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, was designed to aid homosexuals in the same way that similar organizations assist blacks, Puerto Ricans and members of other minority groups. He added that the fund was expected to be in operation by the end of the year."



The *Boston Globe* Nov. 9. "Alcoholism is soaring in Britain". By Raymond R. Coffey, *Chicago Daily News*.

LONDON. "Britons are drinking their way towards a colossal national hangover that could leave the country with a million alcoholics by 1980.

Much of the growing problem, according to a new study by the Merseydise Council on Alcoholism, can be attributed to women's lib, which has brought legions of ladies into the nation's pubs."



Boston Globe Nov. 10. George Frazier comments on Nigel Nicholson's "Portrait of a Marriage." Frazier says "It's a biography-of-sorts that at the moment is a best-seller here and in England, not only that but a *succes de scandale*. The marriage of Nigel's mother and father - Harold Nicholson and (professionally) Vita Sackville-West, two of their country's most gifted, prominent and socially impeccable persons - was a strange one indeed. Talk about your odd couple! He had a thing for his own sex, while she went out of her mind over several women. The importance of *Portrait of a Marriage* lies in the fact that it includes Sackville-West's story of her anguished love affair with another woman. I know of nothing quite like it since *The Well of Loneliness*. In a time when gay and lesbian liberation are facts of life, it would acquaint the prissy with the nature of one kind of human condition. It's

really quite an important book." (*Time Magazine* also reviews this book in the Nov. 12 issue and the *New York Times* lists *Portrait of a Marriage* on the best-sellers list.)



The *New York Times Magazine* November 11, "Behind the immolation in Boston, Remembering Rene" by Ted Morgan. Mark Wagler offers comments about his late wife's life-style. He says "In 1969 she and I stopped living together as husband and wife. She wanted to go out on her own, relate to other women, be friends with other women. When I say she loved women, I don't say there was so other love, she loved me too, but chose to focus on women. She felt she could communicate more honestly with women. She found men much more limiting. Regardless of the image you have of lesbians, you should see this as a continuous struggle to grow, to find meaning and joy."

(Rene Wagler was the tragic victim of the Roxbury torch murder.)



The *National Observer* Nov. 3. In *Letters from Readers* Randolfe Wickler, News Editor of GAY, N.Y.C. writes "I was most disappointed in Bruce Cook's article, 'W.H. Auden: He Gave a Name to Our Age' in the Oct. 13 issue of your paper."

"Like so many writers, Mr. Cook reviewed his subject's life and works, heaping praise on both, but scrupulously avoiding any mention of W.H. Auden's homosexuality. Perhaps you are unaware of Auden's longtime relationship with his male lover, and Auden's relative openness about his homosexual lifestyle.

It would have been more appropriate to have sought some of Auden's spiritual underpinnings in his homosexual life-style, a life-style which throws throws a person into contact with an extraordinarily wide variety of people and circumstances."



New York Times Nov. 7. "Homosexual Teacher Fights to Survive". By Joan Cook (Special to the *New York Times*).

PARAMUS. "Sixteen months ago, John Gish, a 36-year-old High School English teacher, informed his school board that he had been named president of the Gay Activist Alliance of New Jersey. He also is head of the Gay Teachers Caucus of the National Education Association.

Since then, Mr. Gish, the son of a New Jersey stockbroker, has been forbidden to enter the high school or to meet with students. He has been cut off from his colleagues, had his telephone removed, been subjected to a series of minor harassments and, finally, suspended from teaching without pay.

Through the efforts of attorneys from the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, he has been granted a temporary injunction barring a psychiatric examination."

MEDIA MESSAGE

by Loretta Lotman

Want the media to cover your gay-oriented conference/sit-in/newsworthy event? This is a list of the "powers that be" with the clout to make your message be known to the masses. Get the word out to the following people and establishments and you've at least got a fighting chance at coverage. Send one press release and a public service announcement to each of the following:

The Boston Globe, 135 Morrissey Blvd. Boston, 02107
Assignment Editor (Morning and Evening - 2 of them)
Listings
Gerry D'Alfonso, Living Pages
George Frazier
Bill Fripp
Ellen Goodman
Otile McManus
Diane White

The Boston Herald-American, 300 Harrison Ave., Boston 02106
Assignment Editor
Listings
Maureen Taylor, Women's Editor

Patriot Ledger, 13 Temple Place, Quincy 02169
Assignment Editor
Listings
Vera Vida, Modern Living

Christian Science Monitor, One Norway St., Boston 02115
Assignment Editor
Listings
Leon Lindsay, New England News
Bert Johansson, Focus
Nan Trent, Women's Page

Boston Phoenix, 1108 Boylston St., Boston 02116
Assignment Editor
Listings
Guns and Butter
Charlie Lerrigo

The Real Paper, 10B Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge 02138
Assignment Editor
Listings
Craig Unger, Short Takes
Stuart Byron
Laura Shapiro
Lillith Moon

WBZ-TV, 1170 Soldiers Field Road, Boston 02134
Bill Wheatley, News Director
Sonya Hamlin
Paul Coss, Program Manager

WCVB-TV, 5 TV Place, Needham 02192
John P. Twaddle, Program Manager
Lawrence Pickard, Director of News, Public Affairs
"Good Morning"

WNAC-TV, Government Center, Boston 02114
Mel Bernstein, News Director
John Atkinson, Programming Director
Paul Benzaquin
Jackie Adams
Chuck Scarborough

WSBK-TV, 83 Leo Birmingham Pkwy, Boston 02135
Tom Larson

PLUS - Boston bureaus of Time, Newsweek, UPI, AP, NY Times all radio stations, especially WBCN and WCAS; any neighborhood or weekly newspapers.

Allow 3 weeks lead time on all listings; one week on planned news (conferences, hearings, etc.); immediate notification if something big happens.

Not all these people will use the information you send them, but at least it will be available to media people if they want to use it. Then, if nothing appears in print/on the air, we can bitch like hell for coverage. At least they won't have the easy out of "you never let us know".

MEDIA NOTES: Count on a gay program on CATCH 44 the first Wednesday of every month. DOB has the next one on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 8:30 pm on Ch. 44...WTIC-TV, the CBS affiliate in Hartford, Conn. is doing an hour-long program on homosexuality and is using a member of the Hartford MCC as a consultant. Isn't it about time one of the Boston stations did the same?...And am I the only person upset by the writings of Lillith Moon in the "Real Paper"? In writing of the gay women's community in Boston, she limited it to "one bar, one center, one softball game, and one group of women." There's the Charles Street Meeting House, sister, and a lot of women working with their gay brothers. The "Real Paper" (which has ignored us in the past) seems to be trying to get a regular gay writer on their staff - but did they have to pick a lesbian separatist?

Date A

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